

## Newsletter - July 2011

Dear Membership:

Our Thompson Region Division of Family Practice is roaring along nicely. We had our Annual General Meeting on May 26, which was well attended and overall, a very successful event. We now have a new board consisting of 7 members. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (for in hospital care of patients by their own Family Physician) with the government and according to plan; we will receive a first installment of \$125,000 from the government in July, with a second installment due in November. Further details of payments to those physicians involved will be sent out in separate letter from Dr. Kraig Montalbetti. We have a Systems Group working to improve the hospital system to the benefit of patients and physicians. We also have a Mental Health Working Group that is assisting with the communication with our mental health colleagues and with setting up a primary care clinic for mental health patients who are otherwise unable to access any primary care. Our Recruitment Committee and a Community Call working group have started some work and a small but dedicated working group is visiting all the departments to elicit interest for a Family Medicine Residency Program.

In addition to all this, we have been advised by Klaus Mey, Senior OT for Home & Community Care, that Community Rehab Services are now available 7 days a week in order to help expedite weekend discharges, and Dr. Dave Sanden, our esteemed Chief of Staff, has put out a call for family physicians wishing to take on hospitalist duties as they have acquired an extra 0.8 FTE for the hospitalist service. There is also a request from IHA for physician input into the Child and Youth Mental Health Steering Committee – further details when available will be forwarded.

Please read on for more details of all of the above. Any feed-back or comments from you, our members, is always welcomed!

## Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting on May 26 was well attended and featured a presentation by Dr. Kurt Buller and the Mental Health team about the psychiatric services available in Kamloops. We went through the usual Annual General Meeting business with Dr. Shirley Sze presenting the Annual General report, and Dr. Chip Bantock presenting the financial report. A special resolution for adopting new by-laws was also passed.



**Dr. Kurt Buller presenting on psychiatric services**

This was followed by presentations to 8 retired family physicians honoring them for 20 – 40 years of dedicated service namely: Dr. Sheila Burnside, Dr. Jim Mabee, Dr. Krishna Parghi, Dr. Ron Oyler, Dr. Jan Schijf, Dr. Maureen Thomas, Dr. Sai Yeung, and of particular note, Dr. Ross Yoneda's son Josh was able to receive the plaque honouring his father's service in memoriam. Dr. Mike Wilson provided a tribute to Dr. Ross Yoneda's commitment to our medical community.



**Honoring the memory of Dr. Ross Yoneda**

## Intergenerational Transfer of Family Medicine Practice



**Dr. Ron Oyler and Dr. Kraig Montalbetti**

Dr. Kraig Montalbetti, one of our young physicians, was honored to present to Dr. Ron Oyler, the family doctor that delivered him in Kamloops, an award for 40 years of dedicated service. Furthermore, Dr. Montalbetti will be taking over Dr. Oyler's practice this September to continue this wonderful tradition. Talk about foresight and planning for transfer of one's practice!

### **New Board Members**

In addition to retaining our previous Board members of Chip Bantock, Wayne Dong, Peter Gorman, Kraig Montalbetti, and Shirley Sze, we are very pleased to welcome Graham Dodd and Krista Bradley as new Board members!

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Our Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health, BCMA, Interior Health, and GPSC is signed and the funds are to be distributed in order to encourage family physicians to maintain their "Most Responsible Physician" status with respect to hospital inpatients. In return for the extra funding, the Ministry of Health does expect some "deliverables." We are hoping to improve discharges on weekends by coordination with discharge planners and nursing staff etc. in order to maintain and even improve the level of care we, as family physicians, deliver to our patients. If this 6 month project demonstrates measurable

benefits, it has the potential of affecting future funding to family physicians continuing this type of service.

### **Mental Health Project**

Shirley Sze along with Chris Janz, Roy Haugen, Doug Hamilton, Mandy Manak, and Stan Fike are working together with the mental health care team of Dr. Kurt Buller, Rae Samson, Tara Mochizuki, and Cliff Cross in moving forward with the Mental Health working group project to create a multi-disciplinary primary health care clinic for the 700 – 900 more complex unattached mental health patients. This is proceeding with some initial sessional funding from IHA to provide for physician services to see if it can be sustainable.

### **Physician Recruitment Project**

Our physician recruitment project is moving forward. Dr. Wayne Dong is the Chair and he has been in contact with Venture Kamloops and others in order to improve our recruiting prospects. A preliminary survey of local physician needs was done to establish the baseline for recruitment for locums and practice placements.

### **Community Call Project**

Dr. Rod McLaren continues to be active in forwarding our Community Call project in order to provide weekend coverage for alternate level of care patients in the community. Anyone wishing to be involved in the committee or anyone simply wishing to be part of this Call group list is invited to please contact Dr. Rod McLaren or simply let our office know of your interest.

### **Community Rehabilitation Services**

Community Rehabilitation Services are now available 7 days a week for clients requiring home-based therapy and intervention including respiratory treatment and education, postsurgical care, home safety assessments and predischarge assessments, wheelchair and mobility aid assessments, falls prevention and dysphagia assessment and intervention. These services are being offered in order to provide improved care in the community and to expedite weekend discharges from RIH. **Contact: ph:250-851-7900, weekend: 250-319-8476**